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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Zmaj Factory, Ljubljana
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Zmaj factory at 28 Smartinska Street, Ljubljana, which manufactures dry cell batteries and other electro-technical products, has been burdened by raw material shortages as a result of the Tito-Cominform break. Zmaj now manufactures only round three-volt batteries and large batteries for telephones and telephone exchanges. All factory products are assembled by hand, but are not up to pre-war standards with the exception of the large telephone batteries. Large telephone batteries, which are manufactured solely for the Army, post offices, and railroads, have been improved, and are an estimated 60 percent lighter and less expensive than formerly.
2. Prior to the Tito-Cominform break, this factory obtained brown manganese and an inferior grade of retort carbon bars at a cost of four dollars per bar from the Soviet Union. Now, Zmaj imports a better grade of retort carbon bar for two dollars per bar from France; shortages of this raw material still prevent the manufacture of square batteries.
3. Manganese is still used in the manufacture of round three-volt batteries but a process of polarizing retort carbon is used in the production of large telephone batteries.* Retort carbon for this process is obtained from war-time stocks held by "Croatia", a battery factory in Zagreb.
4. Single-piece battery containers are no longer imported from abroad owing to a shortage of foreign credits. Instead, containers are welded together from zinc sheet metal supplied by a factory at Celje. These containers are unsatisfactory because the zinc used is not galvanized and a glueless paper, is used for wrapping elements instead of the standard type of fabric. It has been estimated that funds expended for welding materials, which are imported at considerable cost, would probably cover the costs of purchasing machinery for the manufacture of single-piece containers within a period of two years.

[REDACTED] Comment: No information was furnished as to how polarization from gas-liberation is avoided in these large batteries.

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